

The Sun

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1891.

Mexico.

There was exuberant laudation of the Mexican republic in the speeches at the banquet in honor of Señor Romero last Wednesday evening. The host of the evening spoke of the recent progress of Mexico in civilization and prosperity. He declared that her fields, forests, and mines are producing in abundance; that her industries are multiplying and profitable; that, while her treasury was bankrupt a few years ago, it now has an annual income of over \$100,000,000; that she is a favorite country for investors, and is receiving vast amounts of capital from abroad; that while she had less than 300 miles of railroad in 1875, she has now nearly 5,000 miles; and that she will yet stand in the front rank of the civilized nations of the world. He lauded President Díaz as a nation maker worthy of renown.

Señor Romero dwelt mainly upon the relations between Mexico and the United States, two neighboring powers which should always enjoy mutual friendship. He maintained that the trade between them, which has increased rapidly in recent years, ought to be greatly enlarged; he showed that the railroad and telegraph lines of each of them intermingled so as to make both of them practically one country for commercial purposes; and he spoke plainly of the growth of social intercourse between the Mexican and American people. "Host and guest were not exchanging empty compliments in speaking thus of Mexico and the United States; they spoke the language of business and unity."

It gives us pleasure to corroborate all that was said in praise of Mexican progress within recent years. Mexico has done well and is doing well under the peaceful, intelligent, and energetic administration of President Díaz. May she advance steadily! It also gives us pleasure to corroborate what was said in regard to the mutual good will of the American and Mexican people. There are not any two other contiguous nations in the world that maintain as amiable relations as those that exist between Mexico and the United States. We trust that these relations will continue and that both countries will always be benefited by each other's prosperity.

A Quarter of an Hour with Godkin.

We observe that the editor of the *Evening Post* labors under a curious misapprehension as to who is prosecutor and who is defendant in the whole matter of business which we have with him at present. He uses in the book to remark:

"The *Sun*, in its championship of Koc and Fitzpatrick, attempted to relieve those two exponents of Tammany methods from the responsibility for this marked association of the liquor traffic with the public schools by pointing out the fact that the *Post* was the one who had first introduced the subject. While it is admitted that the *Post* was the one who first introduced the subject, it is not admitted that the *Post* was the one who first introduced the subject."

It may be difficult for the editor of the *Evening Post* to understand that the *Sun* is the one who has been attacking the *Post* and its performances rather than upon the Commissioners whom he is attacking. We have no doubt that Mr. Koc and Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mayor Grant are able to take care of themselves, at the proper time and in the proper way, should occasion arise. As for ourselves, this *Excise* case is only an incident in an extended series of studies which we have been making for several years past in the motives, methods, and expedients of Mugwump journalism, as exemplified in the practice of its most distinguished professor. We find rich material in Mr. Godkin's latest enterprise of expediency. In fact, it is so widely extravagant in his charges, and so grossly and so completely untrue in his pretended statements of fact, and so astonishingly reckless of the inevitable prompt exposure, that we should be inclined to believe that some outside was imposing upon the editor of the *Evening Post*, did not the animus he displays against Tammany Hall, and our own previous experience with him in similar matters, notably his celebrated charge about the fraudulent steal of \$100,000,000, forbid this charitable supposition.

Therefore you may remain standing in the dock, Impudentism, and we will do our best to make your Mugwump friends ashamed of you.

You began your editorially accusing these two Commissioners of *Excise*, and through them Mayor Grant, the present municipal Government, and Tammany Hall, of systematic violation of law and brutal indifference to the interests of public morality in planting saloons around the public schools and the churches. You even intimated that Mr. Koc and Mr. Fitzpatrick—for in all of your pretended "disclosures" and "revelations" you never mention Commissioner McRae, who does not happen to be a member of Tammany—preferred in locating a new drinking place to put it where it would do most to corrupt and demoralize the school children of the town.

You support your misleading charges against Mr. Koc and Mr. Fitzpatrick, you misrepresent the law governing the action of the *Excise* Board. You led your readers to believe that there existed some statutory provision prohibiting the Board from granting licenses to places in the "immediate vicinity" of a school, church, or charitable institution. You concealed as aforesaid as you could and as far as you dared, the truth that this "immediate vicinity" provision was nothing more than a rule of the Board itself, voluntarily adopted as defining its own free intentions and self-limiting the discretion conferred upon it by the actual laws of the State; in other words, you persistently concealed the fact that even Commissioner Koc and Commissioner Fitzpatrick had as you represented, established cordons of drinking places around the public schools, locating, if you please, a saloon each side of every schoolhouse, the Board would have violated no law, but merely have ignored a rule of its own making, which at any time it might formally rescind. The effect of this intentional confusion of terms by which "rule" and "law" were used interchangeably, has been to deceive many people. Here, for instance, is a clear-headed journal as the *Boston Herald* concerning you upon your vigilance in detecting the location of saloons "near" to the schoolhouses than the law allowed, and you accept and reprint the compliment without a blush, and, of course, without the slightest movement to correct the radical misapprehension on which it rests.

Having established a bogus law as the basis for your express charge of criminality against the members of the

Board of *Excise*, you next proceeded to the manufacture of fraudulent evidence. Day after day you printed maps purporting to show the plague spots around the schools as established by the Commissioners whom you were editorially denouncing as brutal and criminals. At this stage we took you in hand, Impudentism. We ascertained the dates of the licenses for which you were holding the two Tammany members of the present Board responsible, as the original locators of the saloons in question. This inquiry developed the somewhat important fact that in an overwhelming majority of the cases specified, Mr. Koc and Mr. Fitzpatrick had no more to do with the location of the saloons than you had yourself. Out of one batch of eighty-one saloons, for which you held these Commissioners responsible, and on which you rested your libelous charges against them, not less than seventy-six, or all but five, were licensed before the appointment of Mr. Koc and Mr. Fitzpatrick by Mayor Grant; and to revoke or withhold these licenses, in the absence of evidence showing violation of the *Excise* law, or bad character of the persons holding the licenses, would subject the Board to mandamus from the nearest court of record.

The exposure of your trick of map making and your wholesale suppression of the dates of the licenses which you specified in support of your editorial charges against the Commissioners, knocked your whole case flat. It destroyed the entire fabric of fraudulent evidence which you had been ingeniously and laboriously rearing for about a fortnight. No reader of the *Post*, however hostile to Tammany Hall, and however inclined to believe in your humbug solicitude for the school children, was so dull as not to see the bearing of this disclosure of your methods. You admit it yourself, as squarely as you ever admit any piece of journalistic dishonesty which you are caught, in the passage quoted at the beginning of this article. Abandoning all that you had alleged in the way of proof up to the time in question, you now calmly proceed to a new series of "disclosures" and "revelations" on an entirely different plan from those which have been demolished. Your perseverance in this respect would remind us of the ant, when its hill is kicked over, if your motive were as respectable as that insect's.

Your second series, Impudentism, is as fraudulent as was the other. Following you patiently into details, and scrutinizing your pretended lists of new saloons licensed since May 4, 1889, when the present Commissioners took office, we are more and more astounded at the recklessness of your mendacity. It is not easy to deal with so shifty and irresponsible a character, but we shall not give you up just yet.

The *Evening Post* is now publishing on every possible opportunity the statement that the present Board of *Excise* has granted not less than 2,067 new licenses since it came into existence, and that a very large percentage, fifty or sixty per cent, at least of this enormous accession to the liquor power, has been distributed by the votes of Mr. Koc and Mr. Fitzpatrick in the "immediate vicinity" of public schools. It does not publish, and probably dares not to publish, the fact that the total of licenses placed in New York at the present time is 34,000, then when this Board began its duties. Instead of increasing the number of licenses in proportion to the growth of the city's population since May 4, 1889, the "Tammany Commissioners" attacked by the *Post* decreased it to that very considerable extent.

From day to day the *Post* is printing lists of licenses granted by the present Board, and alleged by the *Post* to be "unlawful" near the schools. Its first batch of 250 new licenses pretended to show 100 saloons in the "immediate vicinity" of some educational institution. Its second batch of 180 licenses contained 100 cases pronounced objectionable in that respect. In a third batch of 143 new licenses it pretends to discover 131 violations of law by Mr. Koc and Mr. Fitzpatrick. It is this third list, printed on Saturday last, which we have subjected to the test of a careful and somewhat tiresome examination.

We find that instead of specifying the 131 objectionable places which it pretends to have found in an examination of 143 new licenses, its list alleges only 100. But this list of 100 really contains only 79 items; for not less than 17 places are duplicated, being made to do duty twice, while two places are used thrice to swell the exhibit. Furthermore, the *Post's* dishonest statisticians lump as "saloons" and "barrooms" every place licensed, whatever the class and character of its license. According to the method which has been adopted, the establishment of *Acme*, *Marshall & Condit*, for example, at Fifty-seventh street and Sixth avenue, holding a grocery license, for sale by the bottle and in quantities not to be drunk on the premises, would figure as a saloon menacing the morals of the pupils of the Charlier Institute on Fifty-ninth street; the students of music in Mr. Carnegie's building at Fifty-seventh street and Seventh avenue; the Grammar School No. 69 in Fifty-fourth street, midway between the Sixth and Seventh avenues; the sphere of the evil influence of *Acme*, *Marshall & Condit's* license would extend central Park, westward almost to Seventh avenue, and southward nearly to Fifty-third street. More than this, however, *Acme*, *Marshall & Condit's* grocery store would figure in the *Post's* statistics not as one saloon, but as four or more, constituting for mathematical purposes a distinct saloon for every one of the schools within six hundred feet of it.

For the *Post* assumes as the basis of all its charges that anywhere within a radius of six hundred feet is within the "immediate vicinity." There is absolutely no authority for this impudent construction of the Board's voluntarily adopted rule, except such as is furnished by the *Post's* own desire to make a deceptive exhibit with the effect of the authoritative adoption of the *Post's* construction of "immediate vicinity" would be surprising. In some parts of the town it would do away with the license system established by the laws of the State, and set up instead prohibition, as absolute as ever Gen. Neal Dow dreamed of.

Take, for instance, the map of the extensive and densely populated region on the east side of the Bowery, from New Chambers street all the way up to Livingston, and reaching as far back as Clinton street, and to the East River between James slip and Rutgers slip. Draw around each school and church a circle with six hundred feet of radius. The circles of prohibition interlock and practically cover the whole territory. There are 103,900 feet in this region, covered by the circles of prohibition. Only 9,540 feet, or less than two miles out of the twenty, escape the circles of prohibition. Most of this exempted territory, where the laws of New York and not those of Maine would still operate, is in

the streets directly upon the river front, or near it. Along the east side of the New Bowery and the Bowery, from New Chambers street up to Livingston, there are only 340 feet of street where the *Excise* Board, according to the *Post's* construction of what is "lawful," could grant a license of any sort. At Chrystie street and Grand, at the Bowery and Bayard, and at East Broadway and Clinton, there are little regions containing respectively 730, 600, and 850 feet of street front, where saloons, restaurants, or grocery stores might exist. But 93,600 feet of the 103,900 feet, or about eighteen miles out of the twenty miles of street front in this section of the town, would be prohibition territory, with the New York system of license no longer in force. The same state of affairs would exist in every part of the metropolis in a greater or less degree.

We have entered into these interesting calculations to show clearly the character of the *Post's* assumption as to what constitutes "immediate vicinity." Now let us see how it applies its utterly unwarranted and ridiculous assumption.

Its method in discovering saloons in the immediate vicinity of a school is to take Robinson's atlas and measure six hundred feet across streets, over intervening buildings and solid blocks of buildings, from the nearest point of the structure in which the saloon, restaurant, or grocery store is located to the nearest point of the school building. If the distance of the map is as far as the *Post* measures, the saloon, restaurant, or grocery in question is set down in its list as menacing the school in question. Irrespective of the true topographical relations of the two places. We regret to say that even in pursuing this simple and convenient method of making a case, the *Evening Post* is astonishingly dishonest in its measurements. The figures of distances alleged in its lists, so far as we have attempted to verify them, are utterly untrustworthy. In nearly forty instances out of a possible one hundred it helps along its case by understating the actual distance, and this by understatements varying from ten feet to twenty-five hundred.

The dishonesty of its measurements is not less marked than the dishonesty of its method of measurement. The reasonable way to ascertain the distance from a schoolhouse to a saloon, as establishing the nearest distance for practical purposes, is to measure the nearest route by sidewalk from the former to the latter, and not through solid buildings and blocks of buildings that intervene. To assert, for example, that the restaurant in the basement of the Prescott House, on the west side of Broadway at Spring street, menaces the morals of the Marion Street Grammar School merely because the nearest part of the Prescott House is 500 feet from the nearest part of the school building, through four solid buildings, across Crosby street, through three more solid buildings, and then across Marion street, would seem to be the culmination of absurdity. Yet that is what the *Post* does, and it is a fair sample of a great part of its reckoning. The nearest distance by sidewalk from the Marion street school to the restaurant under the Prescott House is 830 feet; and even if the latter establishment were a menace and a danger to any public school, it is practically as remote from the Marion street school as it is from Mr. Godkin's office at Fulton street and Broadway.

We have gone through this pretended list of 100 saloons, or actual list of 79 licensed places of the various classes, which the *Post* offers in support of its charges, with growing disgust at the impudence of our unscrupulous Mugwump contemporary. We do not see how it can impose on anybody who will take the trouble to investigate personally half a dozen specified cases chosen at random. Here, for example, is the first school offered by the *Post* in evidence, as threatened by six "saloons" in the "immediate vicinity":

Grammar No. 2:
116 Henry street..... 85 Monroe street..... 260
116 Henry street..... 153 Madison street..... 475
116 Henry street..... 106 East Broadway..... 175
116 Henry street..... 86-88 Henry street..... 400
116 Henry street..... 115 East street..... 200
25 Canal street..... 400

The place at 85 Monroe street, instead of being 260 feet from the schoolhouse, by the *Post's* own method of measurement, is 310 feet away, through two solid blocks and across one street. The *Post* has lied 50 feet to bring the license a little nearer the schoolhouse. The nearest approach from the school to the place at 85 Monroe, in default of wings or a balcony, is down Henry to Pike, around one corner, along Pike two blocks to Monroe, around another corner, and up Monroe. The distance is 450 feet, instead of 260, as stated by the *Post*.

The place at 153 Madison, measured through intervening buildings from rear of school to nearest corner of the saloon, is 185 feet. It is nearly 400 feet away, around two corners, and shut off from the school by many intervening walls.

The place at 106 East Broadway is two streets away, with a solid city block intervening; it can be reached from the school by way of Rutgers street in 740 feet or by way of Pike street in 820.

The place at 86-88 Henry street, instead of being 260 feet from the schoolhouse, by the *Post's* own method of measurement, is 310 feet away, through two solid blocks and across one street. The *Post* has lied 50 feet to bring the license a little nearer the schoolhouse. The nearest approach from the school to the place at 85 Monroe, in default of wings or a balcony, is down Henry to Pike, around one corner, along Pike two blocks to Monroe, around another corner, and up Monroe. The distance is 450 feet, instead of 260, as stated by the *Post*.

The place at 115 Madison is a corner saloon, 490 feet from the nearest point of the school building by any route that does not involve the penetration of many brick walls, and is around two corners.

The place at 59 Bayard is a saloon and shop for the sale of bottled wines, under Columbia Hall. It is on a different block, secluded from the school by two corners, across a street, and 330 feet away.

The place at 247 Stanton, accurately measured by the *Post* as 180 feet from the schoolhouse, is not a saloon. It formerly had a class 4, or grocer's license, but the same was transferred last summer, and 247 Stanton is not now licensed.

The place at 118 Columbia is a saloon and shop for the sale of bottled wines, under Columbia Hall. It is on a different block, secluded from the school by two corners, across a street, and 330 feet away.

The place at 247 Stanton, accurately measured by the *Post* as 180 feet from the schoolhouse, is not a saloon. It formerly had a class 4, or grocer's license, but the same was transferred last summer, and 247 Stanton is not now licensed.

The place at 118 Columbia is a saloon and shop for the sale of bottled wines, under Columbia Hall. It is on a different block, secluded from the school by two corners, across a street, and 330 feet away.

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street entrance of the Allen street school, is not a saloon. It is a Hebrew shop, where, among other things, wine is sold by the bottle to be carried away.

This finishes the 100 cases alleged by the *Post* in its malicious and unscrupulous attempt to manufacture evidence in support of charges of criminality and reckless indifference to the public interests against two public officers, simply because they were members of Tammany Hall, appointed by Mayor Grant.

To recapitulate the case against Mr. E. L. Godkin:

1. He made in advance of any evidence charges of criminality and brutal indifference to the public interests against two public officers, simply because they were members of Tammany Hall, appointed by Mayor Grant.

2. He supported his charges, he spent about two weeks in presenting as evidence licenses which had been granted before Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Koc took office.

3. He detected and exposed in this trick, he cheerfully resorted to an entirely new system of false representation, to which we have attended in the foregoing paragraphs.

4. He has misrepresented the law.

5. He has misrepresented the facts.

6. He has assumed a radius of "immediate vicinity" for which he had no warrant in precedent or common sense; and which, if adopted by the Board, would nullify the license laws of the State and establish prohibition in a great part of the city's territory.

7. He has adopted a fraudulent system of measuring distances in order to bring as many licensed places as possible within his preposterous radius.

8. He has persistently and dishonestly misrepresented distances, even according to his own plan of measurement.

9. He has misrepresented the character of the licenses granted, reckoning systematically as "saloons" licenses of class 4, such as are issued only to grocers, druggists and bottlers, and which authorize the sale of liquor only in packages by the bottle or measure, not to be drunk on the premises.

10. He has done all of these dishonestable things, with full knowledge of what he was doing, and with no other purpose than to gratify his notorious hatred of our city Government and of Tammany Hall.

You may stand down now, Impudentism.

The Mighty Man of Erin.

In the coming and going of pugilistic championships in America the beautiful Irish champion has been more often represented at the front than any other country, whether it be the United States itself, England, Germany, Canada, or Newfoundland, the few but famous sources of our list of champions. Of the nineteen individuals attaining to the foremost catalogue Ireland has given birth to seven, although those whose first stamp was upon this Western hemisphere, likewise seven in all, were known respectively as Hogan, Haney, Gallagher, Dwyer, Ryan, and Sullivan. These were named thus out of no personal preference for titles of Gallagher, Sullivan, and the like, but for the reason that their forbears had no been known in Ireland years before. Ireland is on top in the originally British field of pugilistic as she is in the great American institution of negro minstrelsy.

Of late years the native Celts have stood around our ring and not in it. There hasn't been a genuinely Emerald champion since the six feet and a half of Edward O'Baldwin sank out of sight. There is a peculiar interest, therefore, belonging to the appearance this present season of another Irishman giving evidence of boxing powers fit to pick up again a thread of his country's interrupted greatness. If not to take back to her the very highest honors known to the profession, Frank Maher, who might before long have been a contender for the world's title, last performed with such amazing skill and success at New York's most magnificent DIANA-topped arena, the Madison Square Garden, is a truly good young man. He is a tall youth whose weight does not show through his coat. His face, intelligent, pleasing, regular, and alert, as in cases often encountered with us, speaks for a body of great muscular size, and by all usual comparisons still greater strength. He is marked with power and quality to his heels. With him all is good, all works together, and with the indubitable elegance of great natural grace and untouched suppleness.

And his style. Ah, it is lovely. Master Maher has as yet tapped glances with but very few of the highest honors known to the profession. Frank Maher, who might before long have been a contender for the world's title, last performed with such amazing skill and success at New York's most magnificent DIANA-topped arena, the Madison Square Garden, is a truly good young man. He is a tall youth whose weight does not show through his coat. His face, intelligent, pleasing, regular, and alert, as in cases often encountered with us, speaks for a body of great muscular size, and by all usual comparisons still greater strength. He is marked with power and quality to his heels. With him all is good, all works together, and with the indubitable elegance of great natural grace and untouched suppleness.

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It is said that Prince ALBERT VICTOR and his Princess that is to be are going to be hard up. ALBERT EDWARD hoards debts rather than money, her Majesty, though a saver, is not rolling in generosity, and Parliament is not disposed to provide too well for the young couple more renowned for length of neck than for length of purse. The thing for him to do is to come over here and lecture. Prince as he is, he may yet become a member of the Oklahoma Territorial Assembly or Mayor of Stumpopolis. Here is his chance to make money, and to become a ruling sovereign instead of a princeling.

A Georgia physician, too much devoted to putting an enemy in his mouth, has received from his townsmen a vigorous rebuke in the shape of a flogging and a coat of ink. The coat of ink seems to have been a substitute for the more usual tar and feathers, and may have been used in an allegorical sense to designate spots which the doctor has darkened with a satirical reference to his doctor's literary acquirements. It will not be tolerated, we suppose, that ink applied externally has any curative quality in cases of intemperance. Why ink should be used as a hold their next National Convention in St. Louis? A meritorious place, but without prohibition suggestions and well endowed with breweries. Why was the Convention not called for Waterville, Watertown, or Waterbury?

It is desirable that the publication of the new edition of Dr. CHARLES MITCHELL DREW'S "Orations and After-Dinner Speeches" shall be delayed long enough to permit the insertion in it of the discourse which he delivered on Wednesday last at the dedication of the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, some passages of which were printed in yesterday's *Sun*. The all too brief a discourse will show that it is unlike any of the orations or any of the after-dinner speeches that stood in the last edition of the book and that are to be reprinted in the forthcoming edition. As the Drexel Institute has been "founded for the

promotion of Art, Science, and Industry," so it is to these noble themes that Dr. DREW'S discourse is devoted. It is not only, even for a man of very luminous mind, to throw any new light upon such themes, but it is impossible for Dr. DREW to take up any theme without throwing light upon it.

Therefore, we ask, let this publication of the new edition of Dr. DREW'S book be delayed until he can find time to review, revise, and prepare for the printer the Philadelphia discourse of Wednesday last upon art, science, and industry.

We, the American people, are kindly disposed toward Chili, though she has not demeaned herself properly in her dealings with us. We are altogether friendly to Italy, though she withdrew her Minister from Washington some time ago. We think highly of the whole people of the Dominion of Canada, though some of the purblind newspapers there do not reciprocate our sentiments. In short, we, the American people, are in an amiable mood as we survey the whole world, and stand ready for self-defense against all comers.

That is an able idea of Chicago to invite Congress to come and look at the Fair. Will you walk into my parlor? A dead-end street for Congress at an expense of \$5,000,000 would be a trifle too expensive; yet \$5,000,000 too expensive. If Chicago chooses to give a free lunch to Congress, and certain members of Congress choose to go, everybody to his taste; but Congress knows that the bill will be sent in.

MR. ANDREW CANNON appears to hold decided opinions about the future destiny of the northern portion of North America. In reply to a question put to him by Mr. JAMES PATTERSON of Ontario about the proposed establishment of iron works at Hamilton, he answered, "I am not at all in favor of the foreign control of Canada, and I am not at all in favor of becoming a part of the American Union. It will be time enough to consider the investment of capital there by Americans. This natural union of the English-speaking people of the American continent would double the value of everything in Canada, including the men of Canada."

There is no doubt that Mr. CANNON'S view of the effect of continental union upon the value of property in Canada is just and moderate; and when the people of Canada come to the same conclusion, they will undoubtedly know how to make their judgment effective.

Having kicked like a bay steer against the gates of the Kansas Alliance, it is about to go into the business of being a lionhearted champion itself. The Kansas Alliance Cooperative Mortgage Association has been formed. It remains to be seen whether the Alliance will be any more ready to pay interest on company of this name than to an ordinary investment company. The capital is to be raised by the sale of bonds, and the bonds are to be sold by the company if it desired; but, according to the Kansas Alliance theory, there should be no obligation to pay either interest or principal of a mortgage to the shark-mouthed and happy-clawed capitalists of the East. No mortgages genuine unless interest is used to "sand" the ink.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Jewish Times*, objects to our speaking of a person who has been arrested in New York as a "Polish Hebrew." The ground of the objection is that the word Hebrew means an adherent of the Jewish religion, and our contemporary holds that it is objectionable to describe a man by naming his faith. So it would be if the purpose was